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THE FRIDAY LETTER

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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

by Bob DeLorenzo

Let's come together to explore our Hispanic heritage during our annual celebration from Sept. 15th to Oct. 15th. We are fast approaching the 500th anniversary of Columbus' voyage to America that first brought Spanish culture -and conquest- to the New World. The conquistadors have departed, but much of Spanish culture has survived, and remain as one of the sub-cultures along with other immigrant cultures throughout North, South, and Central America. With education as the theme of this year's celebration, we have a full calendar of events that will allow us to learn about the values, food, music, customs, and people of Latin America--and we will learn a little of the Spanish language too!

The opening activity will be Sept. 18th at the USDA South Building, but here at POC the fun will start on Friday, Sept. 21st, with a film showing. The films Stand and Deliver, and The Milagro Beanfield War will be shown, one in the morning and one in the

afternoon. These same films will be shown again on Tuesday, Oct. 2nd, with the order reversed.

We are fortunate to have two excellent speakers this year. On Monday, Sept. 24th, our speaker will be **Adis Maria Vila**, Assistant Secretary for Administration. **Ms. Vila**, who worked at the Departments of State and Commerce before coming to USDA, was born in Cuba, and has travelled widely. On Wednesday, Oct. 3rd, we will welcome **Antonia C. Novello**, who was appointed Surgeon General by President **Bush** in March of this year. **Dr. Novello**, who is from Puerto Rico, is both the first woman and the first Hispanic to serve in this important position.

A slide show on the Central American countries of Guatemala and Honduras will be conducted on Oct. 4th, along with an exhibit of souvenirs and artifacts from Latin America.

The final event, on Oct. 10th, will be an international pot luck luncheon, at which all guests must bring a food dish -not

necessarily Hispanic- as the price of admission. There will be atmosphere, music, and an informal lesson in Spanish at each table!

A Calendar of Events, with dates and times, is listed below. All events will be in the 4th floor conference room. All FNS employees are encouraged to participate. If anyone would like more information, or would like to display souvenirs from their Latin American adventures, please contact **Carmen Schachte**, chairperson, Hispanic Heritage Month Planning Committee at 756-3208, or **Francesca Bravo** at 756-3730.

EVENTS CALENDAR

9/18 Opening Activities
9/21 FILMS--
10:00-Stand & Deliver
2:00-The Milagro Beanfield War
9/24 10:30 Ms. Vila
10/2 FILMS--
10:00-The Milagro Beanfield War
2:00-Stand & Deliver
10/3 3:30 Dr. Novello
10/4 Slides Exhibit at 10:00 & 2:00
10/10 Luncheon



by Bob Beard

ON
THE
HILL

Congress returned from the Labor Day break with a number of pressing issues to be decided, including the appropriation and budget issues for Fiscal Year 1991, a Supreme Court nomination and a conflict in the Middle East. The target date for adjournment of the 101st Congress has not been decided, but there is a belief that the Congress will try to wrap up all work by October 12 or 13, extending the original adjournment date from October 5. Others believe that a "lame-duck" session is inevitable and will be held after the November elections. (A lame-duck session is so named because many of the members that would attend that session would be retiring or defeated in the election and would be "lame-ducks".)

In terms of FNS programs, it appears that a Conference on the Farm Bill will not be held until at least September 17. There are several complicating factors in this because neither the House nor Senate has completed naming conferees. Also, Agriculture Committee Chairman **Patrick Leahy's** schedule will be in part taken up with the nomination of Judge **Souter** for the Supreme Court, since Sen. **Leahy** also serves on the Judiciary Committee. Most insiders predict that the Farm Bill Conference hours will be long and late.

Frequently Asked Furlough Hotline Questions

HQ's hotline is 756-3334. USDA helpline number is (202) 382-6106 or FTS 382-6106.

1. Will leave-without-pay (LWOP) taken during the past few months count against furlough?

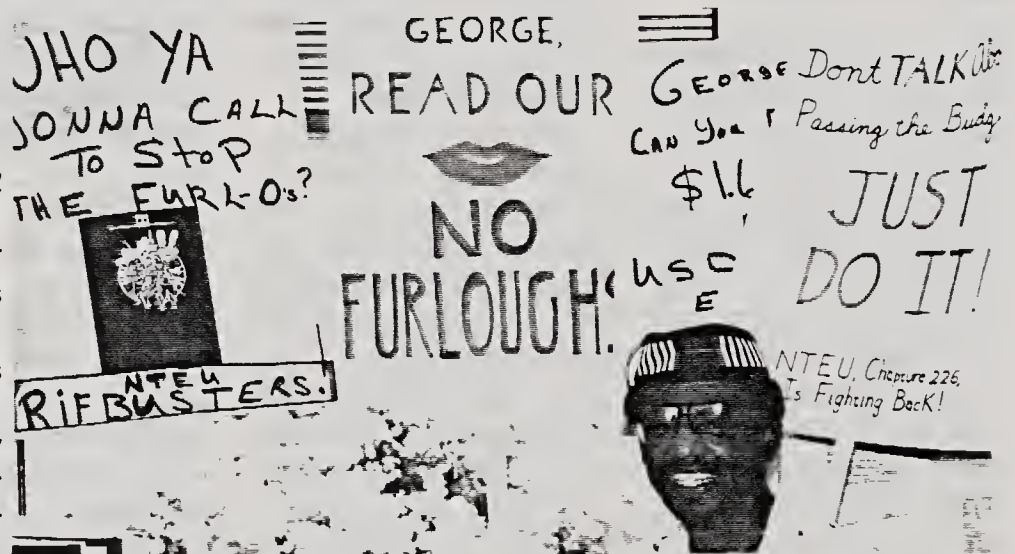
The LWOP the employee has taken in Fiscal Year 1990 would not count toward furlough. The LWOP the employee takes during the furlough period would count, if the LWOP matches the number of furlough days required.

2. What is the difference between LWOP and furlough? Are there any advantages?

They are both non-pay status. LWOP allows employees to be off a longer period than required by furlough, if the employee so desires. If an employee takes LWOP for furlough and the furlough is later rescinded with pay, those who took LWOP in-lieu-of furlough will probably not get the pay restored.

3. How does furlough affect within-grade increases, retirement, and leave accrual?

- For within grade increases, an aggregate of 2 work weeks of non-pay status is creditable service for steps 2, 3, and 4; 4 work weeks for steps 5, 6, and 7; and 6 work weeks for steps 8, 9, and 10.
- For retirement, an aggregate non-pay status of 6 months in the calendar year is creditable service. When employees are in non-pay status for only a portion of a pay period, their contributions are adjusted in proportion of their basic pay.
- For leave accrual, for full-time employees, when non-pay hours reach 80 or increments of 80, the employee will not earn leave for the pay period affected.



Ron Johnson joined other FNS and Federal employees in a rally against possible furloughs held at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

4. If you cannot take all of your annual leave because of furlough, will you lose it?

You should schedule your use-or-lose leave before December 1, 1990. If you are not able to use your annual leave because of the furlough, the Administrator or her designee may exercise her authority to determine you were not able to use the leave and approve the leave for carryover based on exigency of the public service - the need to furlough.

5. How are part-time employees handled?

Your time will be prorated. If you work .8 of a pay period, the maximum furlough for the first quarter is $.8 \times 176 = 141$ hours.

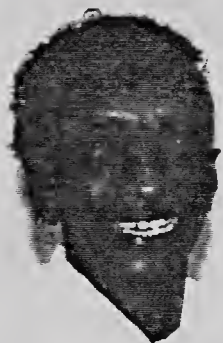
6. Are we asking for oral replies to the furlough notice of August 27, 1990?

We are giving you the opportunity to reply and will accept any response that you give. The law requires that individuals have a right to respond. For example, you have the right to respond to the way the furlough is applied or if you believe that you are being treated differently from other employees.

7. Will furlough affect my high-three salary average for retirement?

Generally, there will be no effect on the high-three average unless furlough causes you to be in non-pay status for more than 6 months during the calendar year.

Employees are reminded that FNS Notice dated August 29, 1990 covers additional questions and answers on furlough. An LWOP notice dated August 31, 1990 has additional information on LWOP.



Employee Profile...

Happy Retirement Wishes to Mary Travis

by Towanda Rogers

A retirement reception was held honoring **Mary B. Travis**, a secretary in the Administrator's office, for 21 years

of Federal service. Mary began her military career in 1951 on active status in the United States Air Force for three years. She and her husband travelled extensively during their tenure in the military, and lived in different parts of the world, including Casablanca French, Morocco; Washington, D.C.; Colorado Spings, Colorado; Syracuse, New York; London, England and Athens, Greece.

Mary started her civil service career in 1960 with the Department of Air Force and later continued her service with the Department of Army and the Department of Navy. She transferred to Health, Education and Welfare (present day Health and Human Services) in 1970. Mary entered into duty at the Department of Agriculture, Food Distribution Division, Food Branch in 1982; she later moved to the Office of the Administrator in 1983 where she

worked primarily as a secretary until her retirement, effective September 3, 1990.

Mary will continue to reside in Oxon Hill, Maryland, and enjoy her time with her husband and two children. Her plans for now are to visit family in Rogersville, Alabama, and "do anything she pleases whenever she pleases." **Mary** has always been an active member at Matthews Memorial Baptist Church where she will continue to devote time to the Missionary Society, Music Appreciation and Sunday School. She enjoys learning through academic study and will avail herself to various academic courses, including theology.

Mary's pleasant smile and cheerful greetings will surely be missed by all of us. We wish her the best and good health in her retirement.

Points of Light...Points of Honor

by Mary Morris

An educated guess leads us to believe that each of us is personally aware of at least one person who has been called to active military duty because of the increasing tensions in the middle east. As a part of our continuing support of the President's Points of Light initiative, we wish to solicit your humanitarian support for our service people in Saudi Arabia. It costs 25 cents, and perhaps 15 minutes of your time. Join us in sending messages to our military in Saudi Arabia. **Larry Carnes** of HQ's OAE writes:

"My brother **Craig**...is a Corporal in the 1st Batalion, Fifth Marines and has been in Saudi Arabia for nearly two weeks. His was one of the first military units to arrive. **Craig** has written us to say that '...information flow for our troops is very limited.' He indicated that he's seen his share of munitions and artillery and hopes they won't have to be used. The personnel in his unit are looking for diversions," says Larry, and are "starving for mail and reading materials."

We offer his address here, and are compiling a list of other service personnel who would appreciate a letter or card.

CPL **Craig Carnes**, #451-35-9154
H&S Company, CONAD 1/5 Marines
FPO New York, NY 09503-5508

If you have an address for someone in Saudi Arabia and wish to have them included, please send it to the attention of **Mary Morris**, FNS Public Information Staff, Room 819, POC, or by way of CCMail. She can be reached at FTS 756-3276.



SERO Classification Specialist **Horace Kendrick** (R) watches as his supervisor **Haynes Pressley** examines his orders to report to Fort Stewart, Ga. A sergeant major in the Army Reserves, **Kendrick** was called up August 30 to help process military units that are activated in response to the Persian Gulf crisis. (Photo by Steve Watson)

FNS TO HELP EMPLOYEES DEVELOP THEIR CAREERS

On August 14, the Administrator personally charged the FNS Career Development Task Force to institute a career development program for FNS that provides employees a "helping hand to climb the ladder and/or helps them find ways to climb the ladder on their own."

The Task Force was formed earlier this summer to establish a program that develops the talents and potential of FNS employees. The twelve representatives from the Regions and Headquarters began work in July to formulate the goals of the FNS career development program and to determine where FNS is now in identifying, cultivating and implementing career development opportunities for all employees.

During the August meeting at HQ's, the group exchanged their preliminary findings, explored their ramifications, and planned future actions, including their interface with the Work Force Diversity Task Team. The group also prepared a summary of their accomplishments, findings, and recommendations that they are currently circulating to top management for review. After the comment period, the Task Force plans to come together once again to flesh out a career

development strategy for the Agency that provides opportunity for everyone, even in lean fiscal times.

The group welcomes your ideas and suggestions!

Task Force members: Chairperson, **Judith Lombard**, Employee Development Specialist, Personnel Division, 756-3374; **Ted Bell**, Director, Personnel Division, 756-3326; **Linda Clarke**, Secretary to Deputy Administrator, Food Stamp Program, 756-3026; **David Hamer**, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Financial Management, 756-3046; **Jim Kay**, Personnel Officer, MARO, 348-5078; **Bob Labbe**, Program Analyst, Office of Regional Operations, 756-3035; **Sharon Mackay**, Regional Administrator, WRO, 465-1310; **Peter Manning**, Program Analyst, NERO, 835-6373; **Haynes Pressley**, Director, Civil Rights and Acting Personnel Officer, SERO, 880-2626; **Ronald Rhodes**, Assistant Regional Administrator, SWRO, 729-0200; **Joe Shepherd**, Director, Nutrition and Technical Services Division, Special Nutrition Programs, 756-3585; **Beverly Watts**, Director, Civil Rights, MWRO, 353-1457; and **Rafael Zambrano**, Food Program Specialist, MPRO, 564-0338.

VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM'S FIRST COURSE A SUCCESS!

On August 30, eight FNS employees received certificates for completing a beginning sign language course and their instructor, **Jennifer Johnson** of HQ's FDD, received a certificate of appreciation from Personnel for teaching it. Twice a week, for 8 weeks, **Jennifer's** students learned American Sign Language (ASL) in a silent environment, devoid of talking or the use of audible sounds to communicate.

"American Sign Language is the subtle, elegant, powerful language of a rich, complex culture, and my goal for you is that you will sign naturally, interact comfortably and show awareness of and respect for the Deaf community," said

Jennifer as the beginning of the course.

Students learned to exchange personal information and to negotiate the environment of signed conversations, and so delighted were they with the course that they have convinced **Jennifer** to teach an intermediate ASL class in September.

Jennifer was one of several HQ's employees who responded to the Personnel Division's Volunteer Instructor Initiative. The Initiative was launched by the Services Branch to supplement its current training efforts, reduce FNS's dependency on outside vendors, utilize employee's talents and enrich their

CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTORS' MEETING HELD IN NYC

The annual Civil Rights Directors' Meeting was held August 1-3, 1990 in New York City. Attending the meeting were **Larry Brantley**, **Brenda Bryant**, and **Gloria McColl** from HQ's; **Brenda Styles**, MARO; **Ola Moore**, SWRO; **Beverly Watts**, MWRO; **Haynes Pressley**, SERO; **Glenda Johnson**, WRO; **Evelyn Stafford**, MPRO; and **Claudia Smith**, NERO. Again this year the meeting was scheduled to coincide with the National Urban League (NUL) Conference. The NUL Conference workshops were especially helpful this year with the focus on work force diversity and affirmative action.

Because of the Department's initiative, the Civil Rights Directors' Meeting primarily focused on work force diversity as it relates to program delivery and EEO. The comments and suggestions from the meeting were shared with the Work Force diversity Task Team.

Other topics of discussion included a proposed civil rights complaint system presented by **Gloria McColl** which will further streamline the process. **Brenda Bryant** gave an update on changes in DPM 1613 and talked about the status of informal EEO complaints. Presentations were given by **Glenda Johnson** who talked about civil rights visibility; **Beverly Watts**,

Brenda Styles, **Claudia Smith** and **Evelyn Stafford** who discussed a regional exchange and civil rights/EEO training; and **Ola Moore** who provided information on a pilot project for conducting compliance reviews in the Food Distribution Program in Oklahoma.

worklife, meet identified training needs, and provide a career development opportunity to those employees interested in teaching. Several volunteer instructors have developed courses which they plan to offer this fall.

Those interested in becoming a volunteer instructor should contact **Bill Burke** or **Judith Lombard** for information on the program.

AROUND THE COUNTRY...



Atlanta Area Office



Chicago Area Office



Dallas Area Office

COMPLIANCE BRANCH HOLDS NATIONAL MEETING

by Joe McLin

Compliance Branch investigators from across the nation converged in Minneapolis, MN, recently for their annual national conference. Associate Administrator **George Braley** and MWRO Administrator **Monroe Woods** both spoke to the group. Other featured speakers included representatives from the Department of Justice, USDA's Office of the Inspector General, and the General Counsel's Office. A recurrent theme of this year's meeting was the increased emphasis by the Compliance Branch on food stamp trafficking investigations. In an open forum session, investigators proposed new techniques for uncovering food stamp fraud committed by hard core violators and discussed their concerns about safety in many of the areas in which they work.

A major event of the meeting was the presentation of length of service awards. A total of 47 out of 49 investigators and field supervisors received certificates for 10 years or more of Federal service, and 31 percent of Compliance Branch personnel received 25-year length of service awards. Compliance Officer-in-Charge **Ralph Minton** of Dallas, Texas and Investigator **Earnest Edwards** of Lexington, Kentucky were presented with 35-year certificates.



Memphis Area Office



Oakland Area Office



Trenton Area Office

MWRO Provides Drug Education to Employees

by Diana Pihos

MWRO hosted a two-part educational seminar, entitled, "Drugs in the Workplace" on July 19 and August 9. Discussions centered on alcohol and drug abuse, portraying it as an alarming, ever-growing problem in today's workplace.

At the first part of the seminar, a representative from the Chicago Police Department's Preventive Program Division spoke on detection of drug problems in the workplace, upcoming drug legislation and drug-testing. This was followed by a lively question and debate session that proved to be especially informative. The speaker emphasized that the sooner there is help, the better the chances for recovery. He also stressed that we should recognize a fellow employee's potential drug/alcohol problem and try to help rather than shun.

At the second part of the seminar, MWRO employees were shown a video entitled, "Finding Solutions." This emphasized prevention (heading off a problem before it's gets to be a problem). It also discussed referring fellow employees with alcohol/drug problems to an outreach organization called BAD (Business Against Drugs).

All who attended, walked out with increased knowledge on the subject of alcohol/drugs in the workplace and were able to participate in a debate on the ethicality of drug-testing.

RECEPTION FOR GENE DICKEY

Monday, September 17-10:30 a.m.

Room 400

Contributions toward a gift for Gene will be collected by the Office of Regional Operations until Friday, September 14. Anyone wishing to contribute should see Janie Manley in Room 806.

Nashville Field Office Pilots Press Release Project

by Steve Watson

Extra...Extra..."Retailer Barred From Accepting Food Stamps"... Discomfited and disqualified merchants now read these headlines more frequently and more quickly as the public becomes increasingly aware of FNS' compliance activity through the efforts of **SERO's Nashville (Tenn.) Field Office**.

OIC **Leo Haley** and secretary **Angelia Bass** have completed a pilot project which involved transmitting draft retailer disqualification releases to SERO's Public Affairs Office via CC:Mail. From Atlanta the press releases are distributed to media in the retailer's home county.

"It's a better way to do business," said **Haley**. "It's a simple process. The more we get involved in computers the more we like it."

SERO's PA office also likes it. Draft press release information is received via computer immediately in-

stead of the usual three day wait for mail delivery. Because the press releases are issued the same day, media outlets receive information about disqualified grocers in a more timely fashion and are more likely to print the stories.

Last calendar year, 78 grocers were disqualified in Tennessee. Across the Southeast in 1989, 542 grocers were barred because of program violations. Press releases announcing these actions were issued in almost all cases. So this seemed a logical area to pursue the twin benefits of speed and accuracy available from CC:Mail.

Haley's office began working on electronic draft disqualification transmission in January. Because the pilot project was so successful, the Tallahassee (Fla.), Jackson (Miss.) and Montgomery (Ala.) field offices are now participating in the CC:Mail project also. And **Haley** recommends it go region-wide.

MPRO Staff Donate Sweat Equity to Two Denver Charitable Projects

Mountain Plains staff members found time during the busy summer vacation months to contribute their labor to two worthy civic projects that benefit Colorado's less fortunate citizens. On two different Saturdays, the entire MPRO Food Distribution Program staff and their spouses scraped and repainted the outside of the home of an elderly northeast Denver couple. The FNS crew was part of a citywide volunteer effort to paint 300 homes of elderly, handicapped, and poor people in the Mile High City.

Another group of MPRO staff continued their efforts to aid in building a 7-mile-long boardwalk and camping

site in the Colorado mountains. The volunteer project, known as "Wilderness on Wheels", will eventually offer wheelchair-bound persons and their families access to streamside camping sites, a pond stocked with rainbow trout, and an 11,000-foot mountain peak. A permanent sign recognizing the contributions of USDA Food and Nutrition Service staff was erected this summer at the site's picnic area, which was landscaped by MPRO staff. MPRO Handicapped Program Chairman **Moe Thibault** has spearheaded the wilderness project in recent years.

PROGRAM NEWS...

Public Voice Releases School Lunch Report

by *Phil Shanholtzer*

Public Voice for Food and Health Policy, a Washington-based advocacy group, released a report at a news conference Sept. 5 which criticized USDA over fat levels in the National School Lunch Program. The report credited USDA for improvements, but said the department provides high-fat commodity foods and has failed to take a leadership role in reducing fat in the NSLP.

Media attention to the Public Voice report was not widespread last week, but may grow as local papers pick up the report and look for a local angle.

Betty Jo Nelsen was interviewed by CNN on the day of the Public Voice news

conference. She stressed that USDA commodities make up only 20 percent of the foods school serve; that steady progress has been made in reducing fat levels in school lunch; that changes must be made gradually and within the context of what schools and children need and want.

The need for gradual change was the only comment from **Betty Jo** that was included in the CNN coverage. Nonetheless, CNN produced a fairly balanced report, in that it also carried comments by **Marshall Matz** of the American School Food Service Association, and by **Dorothy Pannell**, director of school food services for Fairfax County, VA.

FNS Awards Contract for Off-Line EBT Demo Project

by *Jeff Cohen*

On September 5, 1990, FNS awarded a contract to National Processing Company (NPC) of Louisville, Kentucky, to design, develop and implement an off-line Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) demonstration project in Dayton, Ohio. NPC's proposal was selected from a field of 11 proposals based on its technical merit. There was keen competition for this contract and award was made following an exhaustive review process.

Under the off-line system, an integrated circuit card, also known as a "smart card", will be given to each food stamp household. While these cards look very much like a plastic bank card, each card has its own computer chip which will be utilized to "store" the household's food stamp benefits. The household will present the card to the grocer at the time of purchase to have the appropriate benefit amount deducted from the card. At the end of the day, each retailer's accumulated benefits are credited to the retailer's bank account. The major difference between this system and the on-line EBT systems that FNS has implemented in other sites is that, in the on-line

system, the benefits are stored on a central database which must be accessed via phone lines with each transaction.

The demonstration project site in Dayton, Ohio (Montgomery County) includes an average of 9,200 food stamp households served by approximately 75 retailers. The demonstration project will be conducted in five phases with FNS management not exercising the start of the next phase until it is satisfied that the preceding phase has been successfully completed. The total period of performance under the contract is 36 months if all phases are exercised. Design and development of the system will begin immediately following the kick-off meeting scheduled for later this month. Operations are scheduled to begin March 1992.

Also, on September 5, 1990, a corresponding contract was awarded to Laven-thol and Horwath to evaluate the off-line EBT project. The evaluation will assess the technical feasibility and cost-effectiveness of the off-line system as well as the impacts of such a system on recipients, retailers, financial institutions, and government agencies.



MOUNTAIN PLAINS ARA RECEIVES FWP AWARD

by *Lou Lane*

MPRO Assistant Regional Administrator **Brian Allison** is the recipient of an annual award, given by the Denver Federal Executive Board's Federal Women's Program subcommittee to an individual who is not a member of FWP but has "demonstrated support of and contributed to furthering the goals and objectives of the Federal Women's Program." **Brian** has been recognized for his accomplishments in recruiting, promoting and retaining quality female employees in the field. There have been five female OICs in the Mountain Plains Region--**Oretta Ramsey** in Des Moines, **Irene Wise** in Denver, **Sharron Lasher** in Bismarck, **Sara Hostbjor** in Pierre, and **Alyce Rice** in Helena--until this month, when **Rice** announced her retirement. The award was presented by **George Honold**, DFEB chairman, during the quarterly subcommittee meeting.

ANNUAL FOOD STAMP DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

The annual meeting of APWA's American Association of Food Stamp Directors' was held the week of August 19 in Rapid City, South Dakota. Nearly 200 people representing over 35 states attended this year's conference. The attendees included a large contingent from Louisiana as well as a large number of people from South Dakota. FNS was also well represented: **Catherine Bertini**, **Dave Alspach**--MPRO, **Sharon Mackay**--WRO, **Bonny O'Neil**, **Tim O'Connor**, **Joe Pinto**, **Abigail Nichols**, **Bob Dalrymple**, and **Carol Stansfield** from the National Office, each Region's Food Stamp Director, **Dave Witt** and **Gilda Karu** from the MWRO, and **Sara Hostbjor** from the Rapid City Field Office.

Catherine was the keynote speaker at the meeting. She spoke about the importance of the jobs we were all doing for the people in need across the country. She also emphasized the themes that we as an agency have been stressing over the past year. Of primary importance was the effort that we and HHS have been making to coordinate the activities of the Food Stamp and AFDC Programs in order to lessen the burdens that the administration of these two programs puts on State and local administrators, eligibility workers and benefit recipients. During her presentation, **Catherine** noted the many things that have been done to achieve coordination between the agencies, from issuing joint regulations governing the Advance Planning Document process to playing each other in a hard fought, spirited softball game.

The conference combined a full agenda of interesting topics with a full schedule of fun social events. A great deal of interest was focused on the impending passage of the Farm Bill that contains the Food Stamp Program reauthorization.

FOOD STAMP DIRECTORS' MEETING

Following the APWA meeting in Rapid City, the FNS Regional Food Stamp Program directors and the headquarter's food stamp people stayed on to discuss program directions operational concerns for the coming year. The meeting lasted a day and a half and covered a broad range of topics from current issues confronting the Program, to priorities for FY 91, to a review of how we do business. This was **Dave Mikelson's** first meeting with the group since becoming food stamp director in the Midwest Region.

We were also fortunate that **Dave Alspach** accepted an invitation to join us for most of the meeting since he was able to bring to the group some of the perspectives expressed the previous week by the regional administrators' during their meeting in Alexandria.

Other news...

- FNS approved emergency food stamps for a 12 square mile area of Plain field, Illinois, that was devastated by a tornado on August 28. President **Bush** declared the area a national disaster. FNS has identified 650 eligible families of the 1,000 households affected by the tornado who will be issued the emergency food stamps.
- After a long tough struggle, the Albuquerque, New Mexico EBT project will finally started on September 1. This is a major step in the evaluation of EBT as a replacement for food stamp coupons. Project results should give FNS new insight into the cost effectiveness of various EBT equipment deployment approaches. The project faced great difficulties at one point, but a cooperative effort by FNS and the State along with the support of independent food retailers saved the day. Three of the four major chain stores in the area have now agreed to participate in the project, so all food stamp recipients in the area will eventually be served. An opening ceremony and media event will take place in mid-October once the system has had time to mature and after the major chain stores are equipped and ready.
- San Diego County, California, has been authorized to expand its food stamp cash-out demo project to the full caseload effective September 1, 1990. The county has been providing cashed-out food stamp benefits to 20% of the food stamp caseload since July 1989. FNS contracted with Mathematics Policy Research, Inc. to conduct an evaluation of the effects of providing food assistance in the form of cash instead of coupons. The collection of household data which will be used to estimate the effects of cash-out on food expenditures and food use has been completed and is currently being analyzed. A second part of the evaluation will focus on the effects of cash-out on Food Stamp Program participation, administrative costs, and food retailers. The full cash-out phase is authorized to operate for 3 years.

From the Health Unit

Dr. James Burris, M.D., a clinical researcher in the field of Hypertension and Cholesterol, will be guest speaker, September 25th, 4th floor conference room, at 10 a.m. Dr. Burris is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology and Assistant Dean for Sponsored Research at Georgetown University School of Medicine. Dr. Burris was a Hypertension Research Fellow at the Washington Veterans Administration Medical Center and a Visiting Investigator at the Central University Hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland. To add to his long list of credits he is also the author of more than 100 papers, book chapters, case reports, and abstracts reporting his clinical research in hypertension and hyperlipidemia.

Speaking personally...

I love opening my mail to find words of appreciation and praise for FNS employees. Consider this recent letter from the American Red Cross.

"Barbara Perky, Kim Briggs, Mark Kreaggor, Janice Burns, Daphne Brown, Lynn Baker, Velma Venable, Levi Thompson, Janie Manley and Addie Garland should be commended for their efforts in making this drive a success. It was the most successful effort held at your facility in over a year."

We exceeded our goal on both days! There were five first time donors and a total of 95 donations.

In my opinion giving blood is the ultimate act of compassion -- a gift of life to a stranger.

Thanks to you all!

Betty Go



Goodbye Blue, Hello White!

FNS notices will be changing in color, from blue to white. Thanks to Mark Breda, a Food Program Specialist in FDD, FNS notices will, in the future, be printed on white paper, designed in such a way to capture the reader's attention. Only white paper can be recycled under the Headquarters recycling program. Mark was also one of the employees on the team that established the headquarters paper recycling project. THANKS MARK FOR YOUR SUGGESTION!!



You may have noticed recycling boxes around the agency. This just didn't happen overnight. Efforts by Donna Tonini Budway, Mark Breda, Diane Berger and Vickie Urcuyo, have FNS on the way to a full-fledged recycling program. You'll be hearing more from the Team in the future, and they want your ideas!

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
• Supvry Home Economist	(A)	GM-0493	14	09/24/90	90-H-89*	HNIS
• Food Program Specialist	(A-LCA)	GS-0120	5/7/9	09/10/90	90-108	CND
(Two positions may be filled)						
• Home Economist	(A)	GS-0493	7/9	09/18/90	90-H-109	HNIS
(FT or PT 16-32 hrs per week).						
• Secretary Typing	(A)	GS-0318	10	09/18/90	90-110	OA**
• Sprvy Home Economist	(HNIS-W)	GM-0493	14	09/11/90	90-H-112	HNIS
(Temp Promo NTE 1 yr)						
• Program Analyst	(A)	GM-0345	14	10/01/90	90-50***	OAE

AREA OF CONSIDERATION

(A)	All Sources
(A-LCA)	- All Sources-Local Commuting Area
(HNIS-W)	- Human Nutrition Information Service wide

OFFICE LOCATION

OA	- Office of the Administrator
CND	- Child Nutrition Division
HNIS	- Human Nutrition Information Service
OAE	- Office of Analysis and Evaluation

- * - Reannounced to extend the Area of Consideration
 ** - Corrects Office location from OAE to OA
 *** - Reannouncement - Those who previously applied need not reapply

New Arrivals...

Richard Walter Batko, born September 1, 1990, to **Margaret and Gary Batko** (both FSP).

Anna Katherine "Katie" Baukin, born May 13, 1990, to **Larry Baukin and Martha (OGAPI) Newton**.

Darlene L. Barnes, Editor
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Upcoming Events...

SEPTEMBER

9-12	APWA Information Systems Management Conference, Seattle, WA
12	Wellness Program
17	Gene Dickey Reception
18	Start of Hispanic Month Festivities
17-19	MPRO WIC Breastfeeding Promotion Rapid City, SD
23-27	United Council on Welfare Fraud Training Conference, San Antonio, TX
25	Dr. Burris to speak about Cholesterol 10:00, 4th floor
ALL MONTH	"Summer of Caring Food Drive"